

CONSERVATION COUNTS

JEFFERSON COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT



Important Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Information

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue and Department of Agriculture have mandated that the Land & Water Conservation Department provide a CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE to all Farmland Preservation claimants. In order for you to continue to claim the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit, you will be required to submit a Certificate of Compliance with your Wisconsin State Income Tax SCHEDULE FC-A prior to filing your 2015 taxes. The purpose of this submission is to verify your parcels which are eligible for the \$7.50 per acre tax credit.

Our Department is in the process of issuing Certificates of Compliance to participants. Certificates will be mailed out at the end of each month until they have all been completed.

To be eligible to receive a Certificate, landowners will need to be in full compliance with all Conservation Standards. Landowners needing plan revisions, those with waste storage yet to be abandoned or other livestock issues will not be issued a Certificate until all work is completed.

Only parcels zoned A1 and Natural Resources are eligible for the Farmland Preservation tax credit and will be listed on your Certificate. Land rezoned in 2012 as Ag Transition (part of the updated Farmland Preservation Land Use plan) is not eligible.

When you receive your Certificate, please compare your current tax bills with the parcels listed for accuracy. If there is an error or omission contact the Department immediately and we will correct the certificate. In the future if you buy additional eligible land, rezone or sell part of your farm, you will need a new certificate. There is no charge for a new certificate.

Land & Water Conservation Committee

Matt Foelker, Chair
Carlton Zentner, Vice Chair
Pete Hartz, Secretary
Frank Anfang, FSA
Representative
Ed Morse, Member

Land & Water Conservation Department

Mark Watkins
County Conservationist
Kim Liakopoulos
Administrative Clerk
Gerry Kokkonen
GIS & Land Use Specialist
Joe Strupp
Resource Conservationist
Nancy Lannert
Resource Conservationist
Patricia Cicero
Water Resource Mgmt
Specialist

Nutrient Management Cost-Sharing Fund Available for 2015



In 2015 The Jefferson County LWCD will receive a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to cost-share nutrient management plans. These funds provided cost-sharing at rate of \$7.00 per acre for 4 years. The plans have to be completed in accordance with the USDA NRCS 590 standard for nutrient management planning to receive funding. If you have 100 acres of cropland you would receive \$2,800 of cost-share funds.

The cost-share is meant to bring the land in the contract into compliance with the NR 151.07 State Performance Standard, which states "Manure, commercial fertilizer and other nutrients shall be applied in conformance with a nutrient management plan." These funds satisfied the requirements set forth by the State for the land to be obligated to be under a nutrient management plan for as long as it is cropped. Having a plan is also one of the requirements to qualify for the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit of \$7.50 per acre on your State of Wisconsin income taxes. If you own 100 acres the credit would be \$750 per year as long as all the land is zoned A-1 or Natural Resources.

The funds the county will receive from DATCP to cost-share nutrient management plans will cover approximately 1250 acres in 2015. If you are interested in Nutrient Management Cost-sharing, please contact Joe Strupp of the Jefferson County LWCD at (920) 674-7483.

Is it Soil Sampling Time?

Now is the time to check your records to see if your soil samples are still valid. Samples are good for only four crop years. For example, if you sampled in fall of 2010, they were good for crop years 2011-2014 and you would need to pull new samples this fall. Remember you must use an approved lab for analysis.



At a minimum, one composite sample from 10 pulls is required per 5 acres. For more accurate results, you should take sample at the same time of year. If you sampled in the fall, continue to sample in the fall. If you pull your own samples, make sure you label them the same as last time. Consult your nutrient management plan or crop consultant to obtain this information.

We will not accept nutrient management plans with outdated soil samples.

Web enabled mapping updates:

The County now has updated the [public](#) web mapping application. The application runs on Microsoft Silverlight technology and may require the end user to adjust internet search engine settings. With this application the public will find a wide range of land based information. The user may either, print or save maps, bookmark areas of interest, measure, draw and sketch planning concepts, and share information with other users. The data retrieved is constantly updated and allows for minimal lag time between the County's internal database systems and presentation to public users.

Non-metallic Mining Reclamation Permitting:

Gravel, stone, sand and other construction materials remain in high demand through-out the County. The department under the guidance of the Wisconsin DNR regulates the permitting process for reclaiming sites once depleted. Currently three sites have satisfied the requirements of their respective reclamation plans to allow for a certificate of completion to be issued, while over twenty sites remain active. Most operators reclaim as they go in a contemporaneous process, thereby achieving the standards of their plan, holding down operating costs and satisfy the intent of the DNR natural resource rules.

Farmland Conservation Easement Commission

What is an easement? A conservation easement is a voluntary and permanent legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. It allows landowners to continue to own and use their land, and they can also sell it or pass it on to heirs.

What is the motivation behind most easements? Conservation-minded landowner's love for the land and a wish to see that land preserved as farmland and surrounding natural areas for future generations is the primary motivation behind most donations. However, the tax benefits of conserving land can be substantial and add value for those deciding to participate in a land protection program. Leaving a priceless legacy can benefit both the land and the landowner.

How are easements designed? Each easement is designed to reflect landowner's individual needs and wishes for their land. Conservation easements offer great flexibility. An easement may apply to all or a portion of the property, and does not require public access.

How do I participate? For more information and/or an application, contact the Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department at (920) 674-7110.

Nutrient Management Training Class Offered

The Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department is offering a Farmer Training Class for producers to learn to write their own Nutrient Management Plan. **This is a 4 day class and all sessions must be attended for completion.** Plans are required for eligibility with the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program.

The Windows based program used in this class is called SNAP PLUS and can be downloaded for free at <http://snapplus.wisc.edu/>. There is a \$30 fee for the class which includes all materials and refreshments. Lap-top computers will be available for students who do not have their own.



2015 Class Dates

Monday, February 16th

Friday, February 20th

Tuesday, February 24th

Wednesday, February 25th

****Between February 17th and 18th each student must attend a one-on-one session with a member of our staff.****

Time

8:00 - 11:00 a.m. each day

Jefferson County UW Extension

864 Collins Rd

Jefferson, WI 53549

Lower Level Meeting Room

Prerequisites:

- You (or a willing assistant) must be proficient in using a computer including basic file management and the ability to navigate in a Windows-based environment.
- You must have soil tests taken correctly. One sample per 5 acres, taken no longer ago than the fall of 2011.

Space is limited to six students and registration is on a first come basis. Please call Nancy at (920) 674-7115 or email nancyl@jeffersoncountywi.gov for more information.

Mail registration along with a check for \$30 made out to:

Jefferson County LWCD

Courthouse - 311 S Center Ave, Rm 113

Jefferson, WI 53549

Name: _____

****Bringing a helper? Please list them below. NOTE: There is no additional charge for your helper.***

Helper: _____

Phone Number: _____

I need to borrow a laptop: YES NO (Circle one)



Are You A Past Nutrient Management Training Graduate?

Update Classes that have been scheduled for this upcoming winter. With the new requirements for Farmland Preservation, participants will need to submit the compliance report and spreading plan report along with their 590 checklist. We anticipate class interest to be high so register early!



All classes will be held at UW Extension in Jefferson. The following are winter class offerings:

Monday, November 3, 2014 ~ 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 7, 2015 ~ 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 ~ 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 12, 2015 ~ 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

If you have any questions call Nancy at (920) 674-7115 or email at nancyl@jeffersoncountywi.gov

Mail registration along with a check for \$10 made out to:

Jefferson County LWCD
Courthouse - 311 S Center Ave, Rm 113
Jefferson, WI 53549



Name: _____

****Bringing a helper? Please list them below. NOTE: There is no additional charge for your helper.***

Helper: _____

Phone Number: _____

I will be attending the following class (List Date) _____

I need to borrow a laptop: YES NO (Circle one)

Contact Us:

311 S Center Ave, Rm 113
Jefferson, WI 53549
P: (920) 674-7110
F: (920) 674-7114

www.jeffersoncountywi.gov

LWCD Staff E-Mail Addresses

Mark Watkins - County Conservationist ~ markw@jeffersoncountywi.gov
Kim Liakopoulos - Administrative Clerk ~ kiml@jeffersoncountywi.gov
Gerry Kokkonen - GIS & Land Use Specialist ~ geraldk@jeffersoncountywi.gov
Joe Strupp - Resource Conservationist ~ joes@jeffersoncountywi.gov
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Jefferson, WI 53549